

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 02768 01 OF 02 010133Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11  
NSCE-00 DOE-15 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 SOE-02 SS-15 OES-07  
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O 310124Z JUN 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2403

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02768

DEPT PLEASE PASS

WHITE HOUSE FOR ARTHUR MORRISSEY, OFFICE OF SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, UNGA

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE: NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES  
IN SPACE

1. CANADIANS BRIEFED US ON CONCLUSION OF THEIR CORRIDOR  
NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS ON HOW THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE  
MIGHT HANDLE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN SPACE.  
UPSHOT WAS AN "ANONYMOUS" PAPER (TEXT BELOW) WHICH  
CONSISTS OF THREE PARTS:

--FIRST PART CONSTITUTES PORTION OF OUTER SPACE  
COMMITTEE REPORT TO GA ON FUTURE HANDLING OF NUCLEAR  
POWER SOURCES.

-- SECOND PART WOULD GO INTO A DIFFERENT PORTION OF THE  
COMMITTEE'S REPORT AND WOULD ADD AN ADDITIONAL AGENDA  
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02768 01 OF 02 010133Z

ITEM ENTITLED "OTHER MATTERS" TO LSC AGENDA, WITH  
UNDERSTANDING THAT GOVERNMENTS MIGHT RAISE NUCLEAR  
POWER SOURCES UNDER THAT ITEM.

-- THIRD PART IS NUCLEAR POWER SOURCE PARAGRAPH TO BE  
INCLUDED IN OMNIBUS GA OUTER SPACE RESOLUTION THIS FALL.

2. BRACKETS WERE RESULT OF SOVIET INSISTENCE THAT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE BE GIVEN DISCRETION ON WHETHER TO CONSTITUTE EXPERT WORKING GROUP AND SOVIET RELUCTANCE NOW TO AGREE TO A GA RESOLUTION REQUIRING NOTIFICATION PRIOR TO REENTRY.

3. CANADIANS TELL US THAT JAPAN, SWEDEN AND SEVERAL OTHER "HARDLINERS" ARE PROVISIONALLY ON BOARD "ANONYMOUS" PAPER. CANADIANS EXPECT INFORMAL WORKING GROUP TO BE INSTRUCTED ON MONDAY TO BEGIN DISCUSSION OF PAPER. WE WOULD WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS BY MONDAY, JULY 3.

4. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT THERE IS STILL SOME GIVE IN SOVIET POSITION AND THAT THEY WILL AGREE TO DROP BRACKETS AROUND "SHOULD" AND PROPOSED GA RES PARAGRAPH. WE ALSO EXPECT WORKING GROUP WILL FURTHER TEST SOVIET POSITION ON ROLE OF LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE AND GA RES PROVISION ON LAUNCH NOTIFICATION. IN GENERAL, WE FIND "ANONYMOUS" PAPER A FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE IT PROMISES SERIOUS EXPERT INVESTIGATION OF ISSUES BY SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE.

5. TEXT OF PAPER FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:  
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PAGE 03 USUN N 02768 01 OF 02 010133Z

1. THE PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN OUTER SPACE WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 141 OF THE REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (A/AC.105/216) AND PARAGRAPH 17 OF THE REPORT OF ITS LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (A/AC.105/218). AFTER A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE PROBLEM THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO REQUEST THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE TO INCLUDE IN THE AGENDA OF ITS 16TH SESSION CONSIDERATION OF TECHNICAL ASPECTS AND APPROPRIATE SAFETY MEASURES RELATING TO THE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN OUTER SPACE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF GOVERNMENTS AS SET OUT IN PARTICULAR IN PARAGRAPH 139 OF ITS REPORT (A/AC.105.216) AND INFORMATION FURNISHED AND TO REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON THESE MATTERS. MEMBER STATES ARE ACCORDINGLY INVITED TO INCLUDE IN THEIR DELEGATIONS TO THE SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE EXPERTS COMPETENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSIDERATION OF TECHNICAL ASPECTS AND APPROPRIATE SAFETY MEASURES RELATING TO THE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN OUTER SPACE. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE

COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (MAY) (SHOULD) CREATE A WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS OPEN TO ALL ITS MEMBERS TO MEET DURING THE SESSION AND TO REPORT TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE. THE WORKING GROUP (IF CREATED), SHOULD PREFERABLY MEET DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE IN ORDER THAT A REPORT COULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE BEFORE THE CONCLUSION OF ITS SESSION. FOR THAT PURPOSE, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT THE SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE (MAY) (SHOULD) BE EXTENDED BY ONE WEEK.

2. TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SECTION OF THE REPORT DEALING WITH LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE MATTERS:

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE  
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PAGE 04 USUN N 02768 01 OF 02 010133Z

INCLUDE IN ITS AGENDA AN ITEM ENTITLED "OTHER MATTERS."

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02768 02 OF 02 010133Z  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02768

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3. APPROVES THE DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE  
IN THE AGENDA OF ITS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE  
CONSIDERATION OF TECHNICAL ASPECTS AND APPROPRIATE SAFETY  
MEASURES RELATING TO THE USE OF NUCLEAR  
POWER SOURCES IN OUTER SPACE, FOR WHICH PURPOSE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE (MAY) (SHOULD) CREATE A WORKING GROUP OF  
EXPERTS TO MEET DURING ITS SESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
PARAGRAPH . . . OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

4. (REQUESTS MEMBER STATES TO INFORM STATES CONCERNED  
IN THE EVENT THAT A SPACE OBJECT WITH NUCLEAR POWER  
SOURCES ON BOARD IS MALFUNCTIONING WITH A RISK OF  
REENTRY OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS TO EARTH.)

END TEXT.  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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